

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 01830 181004Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /088 W
-----055242 190008Z /61

R 180930Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4474
INFO CUSMTM DHAHRAN SA
USMTM RIYADH SA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1830

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MASS, YE
SUBJECT: PLANES FOR YAR

1. ON 17 APRIL CHIEF OF SAUDI MILITARY MISSION IN SANA, COL. JAMIL SHUWAIL, TOLD DCM THAT HE "THOUGHT" THAT YAR CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT TO MOSCOW CONCERNED ONLY SPARE PARTS BUT THAT AT SAME TIME IT WAS NECESSARY TO "COOL YEMENIS OFF" AND FOR THIS REASON TALKS WERE TAKING PLACE IN RIYADH BETWEEN MODA AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING SLOTS FOR PILOT TRAINING OF YEMENIS IN UNITED STATES.

2. SHUWAIL SAID THAT HE ALSO EXPECTED US SURVEY TEAM TO ARRIVE IN SANA VERY SOON TO GET FIRST HAND IMPRESSION OF WHAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO PHASE IN F-5'S. SHUWAIL SAID HE KNEW OF ANY F-5'S FOR YEMEN WOULD NOW HAVE TO COME FROM PRODUCTION AND THUS TAKE UP TO TWO YEARS FROM TIME OF AGREEMENT BUT HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD GIVE US AND SAUDI FRIENDS OF YEMEN CHANCE TO DEVELOP FACILITIES AND PILOTS HERE. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY PLANS IN INTERIM TO TRANSFER F-5B'S.

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COMMENT: IF SHUWAIL'S REPORTS ARE TRUE IT WILL MEAN THAT AS USUAL WE ARE BEING BROUGHT INTO SAUDI THINKING AND PLANNING AFTER MAJOR DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. THEY WILL THEN EXPECT US TO "MOVE QUICKLY" AS SHUWAIL PUT IT AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION. WE ALSO DON'T KNOW WHETHER SAUDI HAVE AGREED TO OTHER PURCHASES

ON BEHALF OF YEMENIS. SOVIETS ARE INQUIRING ABOUT LOCAL
NEWSPAPER STORY THAT WHEN MODA OFFICIALS GENERAL
KABANI AND BRIGADIER ABDALLAH FADL WERE HERE LAST WEEK--
SAUDIS DECLINED REPEATED SUGGESTIONS TO MEET ANYONE IN
EMBASSY--THEY NEGOTIATED LARZA NEW ARMS AGREEMENT
WITH YEMENIS. IF SO, WE MAY BE LAST TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

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